

FOWEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1960



To :-

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF FOWEY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for  
the year 1960.

The vital records, when considered on a five year  
average, are reasonably satisfactory but the birth rate continues  
to be low.

I am indebted to Mr. Little of Fowey Grammar  
School for the weather report and to Mr. Birkett, Public Health  
Inspector, for other portions of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JAS. TURNER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	2,979
Population (mid year)	...	...	2,300
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	1,009
Rateable Value	...	...	£33,856
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£136
<b>Live Births</b>			Rate/1000 Population
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total Fowey England &amp; Wales</b>
Legitimate	17	15	33 14.3
Illegitimate	1	0	
Rate corrected for comparison			
	with other areas		15.2 17.1
Illegitimate births	% of total live births		3.0
<b>Still Births</b>			Rate/1000 live and still births
Legitimate	0	0	0 0.0 19.7
Illegitimate	0	0	
<b>Total Live and Still Births</b>	18	15	33
<b>Infant Deaths</b>			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	
Rate per 1000 total live births			60.6 21.7
„ „ „ legitimate			62.5
„ „ „ illegitimate			0.0
<b>Neo-natal Deaths</b>			Rate/1000 Live Births
Under 4 weeks	0	1	1 30.3 15.6
<b>Early neo-natal deaths</b>			
Under 1 week	0	0	0 0.0 13.1
<b>Peri-natal deaths</b>			Rate/1000 Live and Still Births
Still births and deaths under 1 week			
	0	0	0 0.0 32.9
<b>Maternal Deaths</b>	0	0	0 0.0 0.39
<b>Deaths (all ages and causes)</b>			Rate/1000 Population
	14	22	36 15.6
Corrected for comparison with other areas			
			13.5 11.5
The following table gives the numbers dying in each age group			
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Numbers ;</b>		<b>Males Females</b>
0 - 1	...		1 1
1 - 59	...		1 0
60 - 69	...		1 2
70 - 79	...		7 10
80 - 89	...		4 7
90 +	..		0 2
The average age at death for males was 68.6 years and for females 75.7 years.			

The following is a list of the causes of death :

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	0	0	0
2. „ other ...	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease ...	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
5. Whooping cough ...	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections ...	0	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0
8. Measles ...	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	0	1
11. „ „ lung, bronchus	0	0	0
12. „ „ breast	0	0	0
13. „ „ uterus	0	0	0
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	0	2	2
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	0	1
16. Diabetes ...	0	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	5	9
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	1	2	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	0	3
20. Other heart disease...	2	4	6
21. Other circulatory diseases ...	1	1	2
22. Influenza ...	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia ...	0	2	2
24. Bronchitis ...	0	1	1
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	0	0	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28. Nephritis, and nephrosis ...	0	0	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	0	0	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations ...	1	0	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	0	3	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	0	0	0
34. All other accidents ...	0	1	1
35. Suicide ...	0	0	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
All causes :	14	22	36

The infant deaths were caused by Prematurity and Congenital heart disease.

## SECTION A.

**Area (2,979 acres)** The district consists of the estuarine Town of Fowey, the Hamlets of Newtown, Polkerris and Polmear, and a large rural background. China Clay is exported from the Port in large quantities, and the Town is yearly increasing in popularity as a Seaside Resort, for Summer visitors. These two combine to make the principle industries.

**Population.** The Registrar General's population figure for 1960 was 2,300. The temporary Summer population is estimated to add another 3,000.

### Meteorological Data.

1960	Mean Max. Mean Min.	Abs. Mean	Highest Max. Lewes Min.	Rain dys Wet dys Very wet dys	Tot. rain	Greatest fall in day	Other factors and remarks
	°F	°F	°F		in.	in.	
JAN.	48.9		54 (2nd)	19			Air Frost 7, Fog 1 (4th)
		45.9		14	4.26	0.98 (23rd)	Snow or Sleet 2
	38.9		26 (14th)	6			Mainly mild and rainy
FEB.	47.9		56 (28th)	17			Snow 3, snow lying 2
		42.8		17	3.72	0.72 (12th)	Fog 1 (28th), Air Frost 4
	37.7		27 (17th)	6			Gales 3. V. mild for Feb.
MAR.	51.5		56 (16th)	19			Slight fog on 19th
		47.7		15	3.43	0.81 (18th)	Mild and quiet
	43.9		37 (31st)	7			No strong winds
APRIL	56.3		65(20th,24th)	12			Fog on 7th, Gale on 2nd
		50.1		9	3.00	0.70 (3rd)	Very rainy 1st to 15th
	44.0		36(18th,30th)	5			Dry 16th to 30th
MAY	61.6		69 (28th)	7			Severe thunderst'm with
		55.9		4	1.91	0.94 (10th)	heavy rain 10th-11th
	50.3		40 (1st)	4			Fog 17th, v. wet 10-14th
JUNE	67.6		81 (26th)	11			3 mod. thunderstorms
		60.6		8	1.32	0.46 (7th)	Fog on 4 days. Mild,
	53.6		44 (1st)	3			dull weather 5th to 15th
JULY	65.9		71 (1st,2nd)	21			
		60.2		17	4.01	0.61 (4th)	Very wet and cloudy
	54.5		48 (1st,13st)	7			
AUG.	67.1		71 (3rd,8th)	15			Moderately good first
		60.7		12	2.47	1.54 (25th)	week; then cool
	54.2		48(15th,17th)	5			and unsettled
SEPT.	64.2		70 (1st)	14			Rainy, ended with
		58.3		14	4.48	0.92 (30th)	a very stormy period
	52.4		42 (29th)	8			
OCT.	59.4		65(6, 7, 9th)	26			Thunderstorm 23rd
		54.1		23	6.91	0.99 (30th)	Very rainy indeed
	48.9		38(13th,14th)	12			stormy periods
NOV.	54.5		58 (1st)	27			Hail 1, Fog 1 (25th)
		49.8		23	5.36	0.75 (16th)	Gales 3, Thunder 1
	44.2		34 (28th)	12			
DEC.	48.1		54(1st,2nd,	23			Air Frost 9, Hail 3
		42.6		18	4.43	0.91 (3rd)	Fog 17th-18th, Gales 2
	37.1		29 (11th)	8			Periods of calm, fog & drizzle

## SECTION B

### Public Health Officers

(a) Medical Officer of Health: J. G. S. TURNER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
1/1/60 - 31/12/60 Tel. St. Austell 2206

Area Health Office,  
Moorland Road, St. Austell.

(b) Public Health Inspector (part time) :

A. J. BIRKETT, M.R.S.I. 1/1/60 - 31/12/60

### Laboratory Facilities

All investigations are carried out at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where material is sent for investigation.

### Prophylaxis of Infectious Disease

In addition to the usual diphtheria prophylactics, supplies of whooping cough vaccine and of tetanus toxoid are available in various combinations and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners at the Area Office, St. Austell. Poliomyelitis vaccine is now available in quantity.

### Nursing in the home

There is one District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor for the area.

### Domestic Help Service

The establishment is the equivalent of two full-time helps. A total of 15 persons were aided, of whom one was a maternity case.

### Maternity and Child Welfare

All mothers and children are visited in their homes by the Nurse. Expectant mothers attend the Clinic in St. Austell.

### Hospitals

The Town has a small 13 bedded hospital. Patients requiring specialised treatment go to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary in Truro, or to Redruth.

### Clinics

Practically all the special clinics are held in St. Austell, either at the hospital or at Moorland Road.

## SECTION C.

**Water** It was necessary to impose restrictions on the use of water during the early Summer. Arrangements were made to augment supplies from the British Railways reservoir at Fowey Station, and also to utilise the new trunk main which had been laid to Fowey outskirts, being part of the Fowey River Scheme.

Raw water was pumped from Pelyn stream, some five miles distant and chlorinated at Pinnock reservoir before distribution. At the peak period estimated consumption was approximately 170,000 galls. per day. Later in the year following unsatisfactory laboratory reports, the public were advised to boil drinking water.

Progress on the Fowey River Scheme was good during the year, and at the end of the year it was hoped to commence supplying Fowey by June 1961.

**Drainage.** Minor repairs to outfall sewers were carried out during the year, and considerable work done at the Ferry Slipway on the contour beach sewer. Tidal work is very expensive, and progress on this scheme will therefore be slow.

### **Public Cleansing**

Methods of collection remain as previous years. At the Pinnock tip, following the collapse of the existing culvert under the tip, a new concrete culvert was laid, and the tipping recommenced. Without full "controlled" tipping, nuisance is liable to re-cur, particularly in tip fires.

**Disinfections** Nil.

**Rodent Control.** No major infestations were discovered. Complaints have been dealt with, and test baiting and treatment of sewers regularly carried out.

### **Conveniences.**

Public conveniences within the Borough - 7 ladies  
8 gents



## **SECTION D. HOUSING**

### **Slum Clearance**

No new houses were built for the purpose of re-housing families from unfit properties. Schemes for the completion of development of the Green Lane Estate were considered during the year, and it was hoped to commence building operations in 1961.

### **New Houses**

6 new houses were completed during the year and 7 houses were under construction at the end of the year.

### **Repairs and Re-conditioning**

4 standard grants were authorised during the year, and private reconditioning and repair continued throughout the period.

## **SECTION E.**

### **Milk**

The Borough is a designated area and only bottled pasteurised or T.T. milk may be sold.

### **Ice Cream**

There are 21 retailers, but no manufacturers within the Borough.

### **Meat**

There are no slaughterhouses in the Borough.

### **Food Premises**

Approximately 60 visits of inspection were made to registered food premises. Co-operation continues to be good, and no complaints were received from the general public.

### **Condemned Foodstuffs**

146 lbs. of various canned meats and 166 lbs. other foodstuff were condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption.



## SECTION F

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases.

DISEASE	No. of Cases	Rate/1000 population		
		FOWEY	BOROUGH	ENGLAND & WALES
		1960	1959	1960
Measles	...	0	20	0.0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	1		0.0

**Smallpox Vaccination.** During the year there were 23 primary and 2 re-vaccinations. 19 of these were under one year of age.

### Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table gives the number of children at 31st December, 1960, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1946).

Age at 31/12/60 i.e. born in year	under 1 1960	1 - 4 1959-56	5 - 9 1955-51	10 - 14 1950-46	under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections whether primary or booster					
1958-1960	1	78	85	28	192
1955 or earlier	0	0	41	198	239
Estimated mid-year population	33	90		272	395
Immunity Index	3.0	86.6		41.5	48.6

These figures indicate a satisfactory immune state in the younger children. In the children over the age of 5 years, the level of group immunity is much too low.

**Tuberculosis** The total number of cases on the register at 31st December 1960 was as follows:- (the figures in brackets are those for 1959)

		Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	...	12 (11)	9 (9)	21 (20)
Non-pulmonary	...	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)

The scheme for the protection of the 13 year old children was continued with the following results :-

Number skin tested	...	60
Number Reactors	...	2 (3.3%)
Number given B.C.G. Vaccine		56
Number X-rayed	...	49 (1 required further observation)

In addition 5 ordinary contacts were given B.C.G. vaccine.

### **Poliomyelitis Vaccination.**

Ample vaccine was available throughout the year and the number of children vaccinated is now over 400. The older age groups are not so well protected.

## FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including visits made by the Public Health Inspector)

PREMISES	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	3	6	—
II. Factories not included in (I) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	11	—
TOTAL	13	17	—

### 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted Remedies by informal action
Want of cleanliness (S.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—

